

## The Clipper Visits... Jim Borghesani

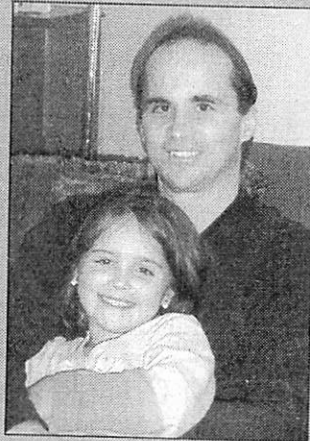
By MARTHA HIMES

Duxbury Bay is a pretty lonely place at 3:30 in the morning. But this past summer, that's where you could find James Borghesani. An avid saltwater fisherman, Borghesani fished 80 days last year before driving into work at the State House in Boston.

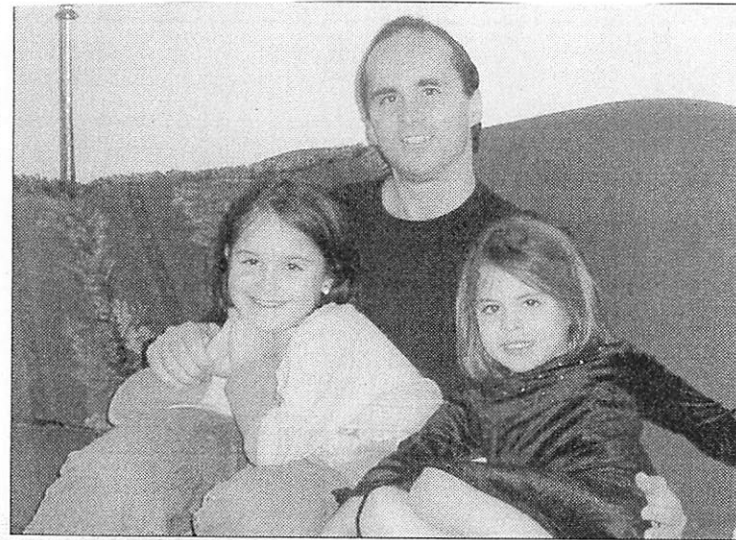
"I am blessed with not requiring a large amount of sleep," he said.

For the past year, Hanson native, now Duxbury resi-

continued on page 7



Borghesani and daughter Juliana.



Now that Acting Gov. Swift's tenure has ended Borghesani hopes to spend more time with Juliana and Celia.

continued from page one

dent Borghesani, 44, has worked as former Acting Governor Jane Swift's press secretary. The wakefulness that enables him to fish at 3:30 a.m. came in handy when he started the job in September 2001, one week after the terrorist attacks.

"Not only were we dealing with Massport and Logan, we were dealing with liquified natural gas in the harbor," Borghesani

As Martin prepared to step down from the seat he departed in January 2002, Borghesani planned to start his own public relations firm. He postponed those plans to accept the position as Swift's press secretary.

The move from the DA's office to the governor's office took some adjust-

ment. In the DA's office, where criminals are prosecuted, he felt like one of the good guys. In Swift's office, he was thrown into politics, and the policy decisions he

"She knew the stuff cold," he said. "She's really a phenomenally intelligent person regarding details of government."

Borghesani sat through daily policy meetings with senior staff, then figured out how to release the policy information to the press. He also fielded hundreds of calls daily from reporters.

The most important skill a press secretary can have, Borghesani said, is a thick skin. A former reporter himself, Borghesani

both grew up in Hanson. As a teenager, Borghesani had musical aspirations serious enough that after graduating from Whitman-Hanson Regional High School in 1976, he went on to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied the guitar.

But after finishing his studies at Berklee, he decided to get a Master's degree in journalism from Northeastern.

"I always liked to write, and was always an avid fan of history and politics. Even when I was in college, I was reading biographies

there was no anthrax found in Boston, there were plenty of anthrax scares.

At the same time, the state was in the middle of a fiscal meltdown, and was without a budget until November.

"It was the worst fiscal situation the state has ever faced," Borghesani said.

Borghesani went to the governor's office from the Suffolk County District Attorney's office, where he served as DA Ralph Martin's spokesperson for seven years. Martin tapped Borghesani to handle the press for him during his challenging 1994 campaign for the office.

At the time, many thought Martin, a black Republican, could not win the seat, typically held by white Irish-American Democrats. Not only did Martin win the seat, he almost won South Boston, traditionally an enclave of Irish-American Democrats.

"Ralph, through the sheer dint of his talent, proved everyone wrong," Borghesani said of the naysayers.

was announcing weren't always universally popular.

The state's terrible fiscal situation would become

one of Borghesani's biggest challenges over the next year. The State House was the site of intense lobbying and protesting by proponents for social programs threatened with budget cuts. His job was to convey to the public the fact that Swift and the legislature were trying to do the right thing.

"Determining how you're going to address a situation is the hardest part of the job," he said.

Working for Swift, "I learned a great deal about politics," he said. "Politics is in the details. Every move you make will reverberate somewhere else. Good politicians know how those reverberations will come back to haunt them."

Borghesani was impressed by Swift and her grasp of the details, such as the Big Dig, MCAS and transportation. She would come into meetings with as much, or more, information than the experts.

secretary he suddenly found himself on the other

side of the fence.

"Not all stories are accurate, and some are purposely harmful. You can't let it become personal," he said.

Despite working for two Republicans, both of whom he admires, Borghesani is a Democrat. He has no intention of running for office himself, or climbing the political ladder.

"I have no interest in management, in state government or in the public sector," he said.

Instead, now that Swift's tenure has ended, Borghesani intends to start that public relations firm he postponed a year ago. He plans to name it JMB Media, and it will be based on the South Shore, so he no longer has to commute into Boston.

While he and his family now live in Duxbury, Borghesani and his wife

From there, he went on to the Quincy Patriot Ledger and the Boston Business Journal, where he covered politics, health care and finances.

Although his wife, Ellen Galambos, works for the Patriot Ledger, that's not

where they met. Borghesani saw her perform in a play in Hanson, in which she was cast as the town harlot. He mentioned the attractive actress to his parents, who knew Ellen and arranged a date. The two were married in 1992 and now have two daughters, Juliana, 6, and Celia, 4.

In addition to his fishing hobby, Borghesani skis and plays tennis with his family. Alone, he hunts woodland fowl, such as pheasant, grouse and woodcock, and singlehandedly trained his champion Gordon Setter, Sam, to hunt.

"The older I get, I really treasure the moments I have fishing or birdhunting. I have to do it," he said.

Soon enough, the bass will be biting and it'll be 3:30 in the morning.